The Office Action objects to the drawings. More specifically, the Office Action asserts that Figure 8 of the application fails to include "the reference numeral '209' for [the] decompression state machine." The Applicant disagrees. Figure 8 clearly includes the reference numeral "209" for the decompression state machine. The reference numeral "209" appears below the decompression state machine, between reference numerals "212B" and "212C," and points to the decompression state machine.

The Office Action further objects to a minor typographical error in the specification, specifically use of reference numeral "203" at page 20 of the application. The Applicant thanks the Examiner for brining to its attention the typographical error, and amends paragraph 0072 at page 20 to correct it.

Substantively, the Office Action rejects all but two of the 50 pending claims. The Office Action objects to claims 17 and 29, and rejects claims 1-16, 18-28, and 30-50 on two grounds: indefiniteness and anticipation. The Applicant disagrees with the rejections for at least the reasons set forth below.

INDEFINITENESS REJECTION

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 21, and 41 as indefinite under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2. The Office Action asserts:

> "The recitation, 'without an input buffer' is not clear what it means since the plurality of registers 215A-215D (and even register 203) in Fig. 8 is interpreted as an input buffer and the plurality of registers 215A-215D is being used as an input buffer to store the configuration data as described in paragraph 0072 in the specification of the present Application.

Office Action at 3. The Applicant respectfully disagrees, and points out that, when read in light of the specification and drawings -- as a proper indefiniteness analysis requires -- the claims at issue make clear that the inventive concepts contemplate conversion of configuration data without using a buffer in addition to the apparatus performing the conversion. For example, claim 21 recites a "data converter circuit . . . to program a function of the programmable logic device (PLD) . . . without

using a buffer to store the serial configuration data *before processing of the configuration data by the data converter circuit*" (emphasis added).

Nevertheless, to more particularly point out and claim the inventive concepts, the Applicant with this paper amends claims 1, 33, and 41 to make even more clear the concept of configuring a PLD without using an input buffer to store the configuration data (or stalling the configuration device). For example, claim 1 now recites "configuration circuitry adapted to receive serial configuration data, wherein the configuration circuitry is configured to program a function of the programmable logic device (PLD) *without using an input buffer to store the configuration data before processing of the configuration data by the configuration circuitry*" (emphasis added). Claim 41 includes similar language (and claim 21 already does so). Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the indefiniteness rejections.

ANTICIPATION REJECTION

The Office Action further rejects claims 1-16, 18-28, and 30-50 as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) by U.S. Pat. No. 5,745,734 to Craft et al. ("Craft"). The Applicant disagrees for at least the following reasons.

Claims 1, 9, 21, 33, and 41 are independent claims on which the rest of the claims depend, respectively. Each of independent claims 1, 9, 21, 33, and 41 includes at least one limitation that Craft fails to teach. For example, as noted above, claims 1, 21, and 41 recite the inventive concept of programming a programmable logic device (PLD) without using an input buffer.

Rather than providing an analysis adequate to support a *prima facie* rejection, the Office Action makes a cursory, conclusory statement that "Craft discloses . . . configuration circuitry . . . adapted to program a function of the programmable logic device (PLD) without using an input buffer to store the configuration data (see Fig. 3)." Craft's Fig. 3, however, shows a data register 49 and a write address register 47, thus apparently undermining the assertion in the Office Action. *See* Craft fig. 3; *see also id.* at col. 7, line 66 to col. 8, line 1 (describing the registers). Hence, Craft fails to anticipate independent claims 1, 21, and 41, as well as their respective dependent claims, i.e., claims 1-8, 21-32, and 41-50.

The Office Action further rejects "[c]laims 9-13, 19-28, 31-34, and 37-50" by merely making an assertion that those claims "are essentially the same in scope as apparatus claims 1-8, 14-16, and 35-36, and are rejected similarly." Office Action at 6. The Applicant disagrees.

The Applicant addresses above the anticipation rejection of claims 1-8, 21-32, and 41-50. As with those claims, Craft fails to anticipate the remaining claims, i.e., claims 9-20 and 33-40. Claims 9 and 33 are independent claims on which claims 10-20 and 34-40 depend, respectively. Each of independent claims 9 and 33 -- and thus dependent claims 10-20 and 34-40 -- includes the inventive concept of avoiding the stalling of a configuration device. The Office Action does not explain where and how Craft teaches those limitations (to the Applicant's reading, Craft does not even include the words "stall" or "stalling"). Accordingly, the Office Action fails to set forth a *prima facie* rejection of the claims.

Because of at least the reasons articulated above, the Applicant respectfully submits that the presently pending claims are allowable. The Applicant therefore respectfully requests a prompt Notice of Allowance.

<div align="center">**CONCLUSION**</div>

The Applicant submits that the claims as amended are in condition for allowance, and requests reconsideration of the application and a prompt Notice of Allowability. The Applicant believes that no fees (other than the extension of time fees) are due in connection with this paper. Should any fees under 37 CFR § 1.16-.21 be required for any reason relating to the enclosed materials, however, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct such fees from Deposit Account No. 50-3813/ALTR-024.

The Applicant invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the phone number indicated below with any questions or comments, or to otherwise facilitate expeditious and compact prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,
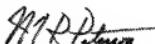
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